

REMARKS

In the present Office Action the Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, because the application contains claims directed to species of the claimed invention said to be patentably distinct as follows.

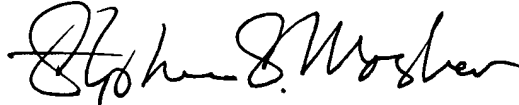
Species I is identified in the present Office Action as corresponding to by Figures 1-6A and 7-9. Species I is covered by Claims 1-13, 15-18, 21-29, 32-37. Species II is identified in the present Office Action as corresponding to Figure 6B. Species II is covered by Claims 19 and 20 which depend respectively from Claim 2 which in turn depends respectively from independent Claim 1. Species III is identified in the present Office Action as corresponding to Figure 10, which is also covered by Claims 19 and 20. Species IV, identified in the present Office Action as corresponding to Figure 11, which is covered by Claims 30 and 31. Claims 30 and 31 depend from Claim 14, which in turn depends from independent Claim 1.

As required by the Examiner, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species I for prosecution without traverse, which includes Claims 1-13, 15-18, 21-29, 32, and 33-37.

Applicant hereby provisionally withdraws Species II, III, and IV from prosecution without prejudice to filing a divisional patent application containing the non-elected claims. The withdrawn claims of Species II, III, and IV includes Claims 14, 19, 20, 30, and 31.

Please charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 50-2555 (Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, LLP).

Respectfully submitted,



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